

Spark Gap

Volume 23, Issue 7, July 2006

Field Day 2006



New MARC members, Drs. Dallas (W9CDC) & Pam (K9CDC) Peak at Field Day.

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Members of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club met on the third Saturday of June for the annual ARRL sponsored field day. This year, the event was held in Greenwood, and coresponded with the city's semi-annual fine arts festival.

This year's event was truly a test of our emergency communications capability, as we operated out of the newly purchased command van owned and operated by the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency. The command van is capable of running off of generator, AC, or DC power sources, and can be operated as a stationary command facility or mobile support system.

Our station, located in the front, offers amateurs independent access to the vehicle. Our primary VHF/UHF station is the Kenwood D-700 radio, and the signal is radiated from an antenna located on the expandable camera mast; giving our station excellent simplex and repeater capability. The D-700 also has integrated data and crossband capabilities which could prove invaluable if conventional modes of communication became unoperational or not otherwise feasible.

Contacts were made worldwide with other amateur radio stations throughout the event, and the vehicles prominent location and high visibility served as a good platform from which to promote our club and the service we

provide to the community.

Talk in was on the 146.835 WA9RDF/R repeater, and backup communication was provided on the club simplex frequency of 146.550 and through the AA9YP/R 443.525/448.525 repeater.

Also participating in Field Day activities was the Red Cross Disaster Radio Group in Indianapolis. They set up operations at Fort Benjamin Harrison and spent their time going for the points! The DRG made approximately

500 contacts and worked all 50 states, most Canadian provinces and the Virgin Islands.

Field Day 2006!

Thanks to Art Bleicher of the DRG and Jennifer Pribble at the Red Cross, the DRG was able to get the best media coverage they've ever had for Field Day (according to President Russ

Eberhart). Both WRTV Channel 6 and WISH TV Channel 8 did excellent spots that aired on Sunday and again on Monday morning. **Great coverage for Amateur Radio!**

Our own Jack Parker, W8ISH, provided coverage via a story on the following week's ARRL Newsline. At the Greenwood site, both Jack and Steve Carmean got some great shots of the operation that can be viewed on our website, www.midstatehams.org.

And best of all we have two new members to MARC that showed up to work Field Day (and dressed for the occasion - see photo above). Welcomes go to Drs. Dallas and Pam Peak who joined MARC during the Field Day activities.

ARRL's "The Big Project" Tops 170 Schools

NEWINGTON, CT, July 5, 2006—With the addition of four new schools, the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP — also known as "The Big Project") now has

171 schools across the US onboard. The newest ETP project grant schools are Denison Middle School, Winter Haven, Florida; Hitchcock High School, Hitchcock, Texas; Jefferson School, St Louis, Missouri, and Mesa Linda Middle School, Apple Valley, California. ETP Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, notified the

four schools in June.

In addition to the four new schools, the ETP awarded progress grants to two schools that already are a part of the program. They are Powell GT Magnet School, Raleigh, North Carolina and South Sevier High School, Monroe, Utah. Progress grants to the two schools will come to \$1000.

The ARRL Executive Committee approved allocating \$10,000

in program and progress grants during its May meeting. Spencer now is awaiting equipment "wish lists" from the schools to put the items out for bid. Program schools have a choice of three turnkey Amateur Radio station configurations, depending upon what the school hopes to accomplish.

Denison Middle School already has a ham radio club call sign, KI4NAY. The Florida school is hoping that the 175 students initially participating not only will become Amateur Radio licensees but get involved in emergency communication activities.

On the academic side, the school wants to use the ETP to help the middle schoolers to focus on math and science and set career goals. Instructor Melvin Carr, KI4NBF, will oversee the program's implementation. The school has already established a relationship with the

Lakeland and Lake Wales Amateur Radio clubs.

Hitchcock High School plans to set up an Amateur Radio station at the school to serve as a hands-on tool to better acquaint students not only with computers but wireless communication concepts, better preparing them for jobs after graduation. The club station also will "serve as a cross-curriculum tool to allow students to utilize and improve their math, science and reading skills."

Hitchcock also sees Amateur Radio as a valuable communication tool in times of emergencies and disasters. In addition, it plans to encourage school participation in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, the School Club Roundup contest, foxhunting, DXing and other activities. Teacher Richard Kotrla, an ETP Teachers Institute alumnus, will oversee the program. He's working on obtaining his amateur license.

At Jefferson School, teacher James Ligman, WA9PEG, is looking to integrate Amateur Radio and wireless technology into the communications arts and science curricula. Ligman, who plans to include Morse code instruction as part of the school's program, believes the

Big Project Expands!

Amateur Radio program will help boost students' self esteem.

Mesa Linda Middle School has partnered with the Victor Valley Amateur Radio Club (K6QWR). The school is hoping its Amateur Radio program will promote interest in communication and related technology, as well as engage youngsters in public service and improve their abilities to learn by listening. The school will implement its Amateur Radio course as an after-school program "dedicated to enriching students' overall knowledge of the world around them." Initially, Mesa Linda Middle School anticipates that up to 40 youngsters will take part in the program. For more information, visit the ARRL Education and Technology Program Web page or contact ETP Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME.



Officers

President:
Scott Coombs,
KC9EKR

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Treasurer:
Brenda Haler,
KC9EBL

Repeater Trustee:
Matt Payne,
KB9JUE

Spark Gap Editor:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Damage Assessment Class

A damage assessment training class was held at the Johnson County EMA on Tuesday evening June 20th, 2006. The training centered on the basics of what the county EMA director was looking for in the area of damage to homes and businesses. The class consisted of members of Johnson County ARES/RACES who would work with the county EMA director during an actual event and would have to assess property damages.

Those attending were: Jim WV9W; Jerry W9JJS; Steve N9LC; David N9QVO; Brenda KC9EBL; Steven K9DY and Dennis Moats the Bartholomew County EMA Director and his assistant Shannan Hinton.

The training instructor was Bob N9SIU. Another class will be scheduled later in the fall for those unable to attend the June 20th class.

Contact Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, for more information or to sign up for the next class.

Public Service Opportunity Greenwood Marching Band Invitational September 23, 2006

It's that time of year again to plan on helping with the Greenwood Marching Band Invitational this fall. MARC has helped with this event for nine consecutive years and it is true service that we provide for this event.

In addition to parking thousands of cars, buses and semi-trucks we offer safety to those attending this event. Best of all the public also gets a chance to see Amateur Radio used to provide a service. The Greenwood Marching Band Parent Organization appreciates what we do and the valuable help we provide to the public attending.

Plan on helping with the event if you can, we can differently use all hands for this event.

Please contact Bob LaGrange at n9siu@yahoo.com or you can find him on the 146.835 (pl 151.4) repeater.

Thanks and 73, Bob N9SIU

New Technician Class Question Pool is Effective July 1

NEWINGTON, CT, Jun 30, 2006—A significantly revised and updated Technician class (Element 2) question pool goes into effect for all Technician class examinations offered as of Saturday, July 1. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says ARRL VEC is ready for the changeover.

“ARRL Volunteer Examiner teams have been stocked with new test materials based on the Technician class question pool that becomes effective on July 1,” she says. “The new Technician class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.”

The League also has updated its Technician study guides to reflect the new Element 2 question pool. A brand-new publication, The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, includes all the information a prospective ham needs to get licensed. In addition, the fourth edition of ARRL's Tech Q & A now is available. Well-known ham radio author and QST contributing editor Ward Silver, N0AX, wrote both manuals.

A team of ARRL staffers and volunteers contributed to the organization and layout of The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, which may be used either for self-study or for classroom use. It features a friendly, easy-to-read two-color format that emphasizes key learning concepts as well as easy-to-understand “bite-sized” sections.

The new ARRL Tech Q & A also includes the Technician Amateur Radio license examination (Element 2) question pool effective July 1 plus an answer key and concise, clear explanations for all questions.

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Order No 9639) retails for \$24.95. The new fourth-edition ARRL Tech Q & A (Order No 9647) sells for \$15.95.

Note: With Ernest Clark moving to the Lafayette area, we need a plan for next year's class. Anyone interested in teaching all or part of the Technician class, please contact Linda at secretary@midstatehams.org.

WA9RDF
Repeater
**146.835/
146.235 MHz**
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org and we will record your check-in!



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org
317.887.2558

Spark Gap

2006 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

JULY 2006

15 **MARC Meeting**

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

15-16 **Hoosier Hills 200**

200 Mile Bike Race from Evansville to Lake Monroe

29 **July Sprint Triathlon**

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

AUGUST 2006

8 **Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

19 **MARC Meeting**

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

19 **August Sprint Triathlon**

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

20 **Lafayette Hamfest**

Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Lafayette, IN (Contact Greg A. Dean, N9NWO, 765-714-2121 for more info)

26 **Owen County Amateur Radio Hamfest**

Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IN

27 **Midwest Triathlon**

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

SEPTEMBER 2006

12 **Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

16 **MARC Meeting**

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

23 **Greenwood High School Marching Band Invitational**

Greenwood, IN (Contact Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, for more info)

24 **HARC Hamfest 2006**

Hancock County 4-H Fairground, Greenfield, IN

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.